

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 47**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta and Eduardo Garcia)**

December 1, 2014

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An act to add and repeal Section 8235.1 of to the Education Code, relating to preschool.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 47, as amended, McCarty. State preschool ~~program: report.~~  
*program.*

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer all California state preschool programs, which include part-day age and developmentally appropriate programs for 3- and 4-year-old children, as provided. Existing law provides that 3- and 4-year-old children are eligible for the state part-day preschool program if the family meets one of several eligibility requirements, including income eligibility.

~~This bill would require the Department of Education to report to the Legislature and Department of Finance, by June 1, 2016, a plan for expanding the state preschool program to all eligible low-income children who do not have access to one year of state preschool or transitional kindergarten. The bill would require the report to contain an analysis of the need for new facilities for the state preschool program in order to provide access to all eligible children.~~

*This bill would state the intent of the Legislature that no later than January 1, 2017, the state budget shall include an appropriation for the state preschool program sufficient to provide all children who are*

*eligible for the program, and whose parents wish to enroll them, the opportunity to enroll in the program in the year before they enter kindergarten.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~yes~~-no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
2 Preschool for All Act of 2015.

3 SEC. 2. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the  
4 following:

5 (a) Recent reforms such as the common core state standards  
6 and the local control funding formula establish greater quality and  
7 equity in California's public K–12 education system.

8 (b) None of these reforms, however, address the reality that the  
9 achievement gap is present well before children first step through  
10 the kindergarten classroom door.

11 (c) Recent research shows that by the age of two, low-income  
12 children are six months behind in language development relative  
13 to their higher income peers. By age five, low-income children are  
14 more than two years behind in language development.

15 (d) Research shows that California children with the largest  
16 gaps in school readiness and achievement are the least likely to  
17 participate in any preschool *program* and the least likely to attend  
18 high-quality programs.

19 (e) ~~Only one-half of California low-income preschoolers receive~~  
20 *Tens of thousands of eligible children do not attend* state preschool  
21 or federal Head Start services, and only one-quarter of all  
22 *four-year-old children are eligible to* attend transitional  
23 kindergarten.

24 (f) Children who are not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd  
25 grade are four times more likely to not graduate from high school  
26 on time.

27 (g) Only 48 percent of California 3rd graders test proficient or  
28 better in English-language arts.

29 (h) More than 100 studies nationally have shown that  
30 high-quality preschool significantly improves children's school  
31 readiness and school performance.

1 (i) Numerous longitudinal studies show that high-quality  
2 preschool decreases grade retention and special education  
3 placements, and increases high school graduation rates, college  
4 enrollment, and earnings as adults as well as decreases costs in  
5 criminal justice and welfare.

6 (j) *Research over the last decade has shown that early learning*  
7 *in two or more languages increases children's ability to think*  
8 *flexibly and builds skills that are increasingly critical to later*  
9 *success in college and career.*

10 (j)  
11 (k) In the 2014–15 annual Budget Act, the Legislature and  
12 Governor committed to providing all low-income children with at  
13 least one year of state preschool or transitional kindergarten.

14 (k)  
15 (l) An independent research analysis of over 20 preschool  
16 programs demonstrated that quality preschool provides a return  
17 of \$15,000 for every child served.

18 (l)  
19 (m) If California were to invest in high-quality preschool, the  
20 overall savings in—the prison system *expenditures* alone are  
21 estimated to be \$1.1 billion a year due to the reduction in prison  
22 population by 13,000.

23 SEC. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature that both of the  
24 following occur:

25 (a) All low-income children have access to either a state  
26 preschool program or a transitional—~~kindergarten~~. *kindergarten*  
27 *program.*

28 (b) Funds are allocated to expand the state preschool program  
29 to provide full day, full year preschool for all eligible low-income  
30 children who otherwise would not be served in either state  
31 preschool or transitional kindergarten.

32 ~~SEC. 4. Section 8235.1 is added to the Education Code, to~~  
33 ~~read:~~

34 ~~8235.1. (a) By June 1, 2016, the department shall report to the~~  
35 ~~Legislature and the Department of Finance a plan for expanding~~  
36 ~~the state preschool program to all eligible low-income children~~  
37 ~~who do not have access to one year of the preschool program or~~  
38 ~~a transitional kindergarten program.~~

39 ~~(b) The department shall include in the report required pursuant~~  
40 ~~to subdivision (a) an analysis of the need for new facilities for the~~

1 state preschool program in order to provide access to all eligible  
2 children.

3 (e) (1) The report required to be submitted to the Legislature  
4 pursuant to this section shall be submitted in compliance with  
5 Section 9795 of the Government Code.

6 (2) This section is inoperative on June 1, 2020, pursuant to  
7 Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, and as of January 1,  
8 2021 is repealed.

9 SEC. 4. Section 8235.1 is added to the Education Code, to  
10 read:

11 8235.1. It is the intent of the Legislature that no later than  
12 January 1, 2017, the state budget shall include an appropriation  
13 for the state preschool program sufficient to provide all children  
14 who are eligible for the program, and whose parents wish to enroll  
15 them, the opportunity to enroll in the program in the year before  
16 they enter kindergarten.